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San José's Teacher Homebuyer Program Hits Another Milestone

Mayor Gonzales Welcomes the Program's 400th Teacher-Homeowner

San José ---- Today Mayor Ron Gonzales welcomed James Lick High School teacher Jason Black and his wife Sorana Black to their new San José home. Jason Black is the 400th teacher to utilize the San José Teacher Homebuyer Program, in which San José teachers can receive \$40,000 in zero-interest down payment assistance toward the purchase of their first home. The Mayor presented the Blacks with a basket of house-warming gifts.

The San José Teacher Homebuyer Program is part of the City's efforts to support quality education in San José public schools. Recruiting and retaining quality teachers in San José schools has been a top priority for the City since 1999.

"Education comes down to the interaction between teacher and student, and a good teacher who has roots in our community can make a real difference" said Mayor Ron Gonzales.

Since the program was established, 400 San José teachers have received up to \$40,000 in zero-interest down payment assistance through the City's Housing Department to help buy their first homes in San José. Over the last five years, the City has contributed over \$14 million in loan assistance to help San José schoolteachers.

"The high cost of living in California made me doubt that I could take part in the American dream of owning my own home. I had almost given up, but the City of San José helped me believe in that dream and become a homeowner," said new teacher-homeowner Jason Black. Mr. Black has taught reading and drivers education at James Lick High School in the East Side Union High School District since 2003.

"We're aiming to be the most teacher-friendly city in California," said the mayor. Of the 400 teachers that have utilized this program, only one teacher has left San José.

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In addition to the loan assistance, San Jose Housing Department uses loan and tax credit programs from other local, state, and federal agencies to leverage support for teachers. The Blacks combined the City's \$40,000 loan with assistance from the California Housing Finance Agency's assistance programs and the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County.

For more information about the San José Teacher Homebuyer Program, eligibility, and housing assistance, contact the San José Housing Department at (408) 277-8486 or visit their website at: ***www.sjhousing.org/program/thp.html***

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